

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01

DOE-11 ACDA-12 DODE-00 PM-05 L-03 NASA-01 NSC-05

SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OPR-02

SP-02 /137 W

-----028837 031209Z /16-14

R 011716Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2669

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3. CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, SG

SUBJECT: INTELSAT CONSIDERATION OF SHUTTLE AND ARIANE LAUNCH
VEHICLES

REF: (A) STATE 6031 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 9750 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH RESERVING DECISION ON INTELSAT LAUNCH
VEHICLE, SENEGALESE AGREE WITH U.S. EMPHASIS ON TECHNICAL AND
ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. MARCH MEETING IN DAKAR OF INTELSAT AFRICA
GROUP II WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
ISSUE, BASED ON MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT SHOULD
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CONSIDER SPECIAL BRIEFING FOR SENEGALESE REPRESENTATIVE
CURRENTLY ATTENDING INTELSAT BOARD MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET FEBRUARY 1 WITH ALASSANE DIALY NDIAYE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELESENEGAL, SUMMARIZED U.S. ARGUMENTS
FOR SELECTION OF SPACE SHUTTLE FOR LAUNCHING 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH
SATELLITES IN INTELSAT V SERIES, AND LEFT COPY OF

DIPLOMATIC NOTE SENT TO GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL CONTAINING ALL POINTS INSTRUCTED REFTELS. TELESNEGAL OFFICIAL SEYDOU TALL, WHO IS CURRENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR GROUP II OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON INTELSAT BOARD, HAD ALREADY DEPARTED TO ATTEND CURRENT BOARD SESSION.

3. NDIAYE, WHO WAS THOROUGHLY CONVERSANT WITH ISSUE, NOTED THAT TALL'S MANDATE AS GROUP II SPOKESMAN EXPIRED WITH CURRENT BOARD SESSION. HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE EARLY MARCH MEETING IN DAKAR OF GROUP II PLUS OBSERVERS FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO ARE INTELSAT MEMBERS BUT NOT PART OF ANY OF AFRICAN GROUPS AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED (AMONG LATTER, HE MENTIONED CONGO, TOGO AND CHAD). HE FELT MARCH MEETING WOULD OFFER IDEAL TIME FOR GROUP TO REVIEW ARGUMENTS PRESENTED BY U.S. AND REACH CONSENSUS ON CHOICE OF LAUNCH VEHICLE. NDIAYE, WHOSE OFFICE IS FILLED WITH HUGE BLOW-UPS OF PHOTOS OF U.S. ASTRONAUTS AND SPACE LAUNCHINGS, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. SPACE EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DWARFED MODEST EUROPEAN PROGRAM, BUT RESERVED JUDGMENT ON CHOICE OF LAUNCH VEHICLE. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO BE IN AGREEMENT THAT DECISION SHOULD BE BASED ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL GROUNDS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO PASS TO NDIAYE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEFORE MARCH MEETING. IN LIGHT OF FORTHCOMING DAKAR MEETING, IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE EXPERT PRESENTATION TO TALL (WHO IS TRAINED COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER) OF U.S. TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM CURRENT INTELSAT SESSION.
COHEN

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